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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. The listing of claims presents each claim with its respective status shown in parentheses.

Claims 1-43. (Canceled)

Claim 44. (New) A secure electronic document including one or more self-contained security elements, wherein the secure electronic document and the one or more self-contained security elements are capable of being transmitted from a sender to a recipient, the secure electronic document comprising:

a first security element interpretable by a recipient's browser and capable of causing the recipient's browser to accept a password;

an encrypted message; and

a second security element interpretable by the recipient's browser to generate within the recipient's browser a decryption key based upon the password, the decryption key being useable by the recipient's browser to decrypt the encrypted message for display within the recipient's browser.

Claim 45. (New) The secure electronic document of Claim 44, wherein the recipient's browser comprises an HTML-compliant web browser.

Claim 46. (New) The secure electronic document of Claim 44, wherein said first security element comprises a form.

Claim 47. (New) The secure electronic document of Claim 44, wherein the recipient's browser is configured to present a password entry field and a decryption button when the first security element is processed by the recipient's browser.

Claim 48. (New) The secure electronic document of Claim 44, wherein the encrypted message comprises an email attachment.

Claim 49. (New) The secure electronic document of Claim 44, wherein said second security element comprises a decryption element.

Claim 50. (New) The secure electronic document of Claim 44, wherein the second security element comprises script code configured to be processed by the recipient's browser.

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Claim 51.   (New) The secure electronic document of Claim 50, wherein the second security element further comprises JavaScript commands.

Claim 52.   (New) The secure electronic document of Claim 50, wherein the second security element further comprises a set of Visual Basic script commands.

Claim 53.   (New) The secure electronic document of Claim 44, wherein the second security element comprises an Active X control.

Claim 54.   (New) The secure electronic document of Claim 44, wherein the second security element comprises software that is configured to be processed by the recipient's browser.

Claim 55.   (New) The secure electronic document of Claim 44, wherein the second security element is downloaded across a communications medium.

Claim 56.   (New) The secure electronic document of Claim 44, wherein the second security element comprises a Java applet.

Claim 57.   (New) The secure electronic document of Claim 44, where the second security element comprises both a Java program and an Active X control.

Claim 58.   (New) A method of sending a message to a recipient, the message including one or more self-contained security elements, the method comprising the steps of:

preparing an encrypted message by encrypting a source message using an encryption key and an encryption algorithm;

preparing a secure document comprising a first security element interpretable by a recipient's browser and capable of causing the recipient's browser to accept a password, a second security element interpretable by the recipient's browser to generate within the recipient's browser a decryption key based upon the password and useable by the recipient's browser to decrypt the encrypted message for display within the recipient's browser, and the encrypted message; and

forwarding the secure document to an electronic system capable of delivering the secure document to a recipient.

Claim 59.   (New) The method of sending a message of Claim 58, wherein the first security element comprises an HTML-compliant wrapper.

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Claim 60.   (New) The method of sending a message of Claim 58, wherein the first security element comprises a processing script.

Claim 61.   (New) The method of sending a message of Claim 60, wherein the processing script contains instructions for accessing the encrypted message.

Claim 62.   (New) The method of sending a message of Claim 58, wherein the second security element comprises a decryption element.

Claim 63.   (New) The method of sending a message of Claim 58, wherein the source message is capable of being received as part of an XML template.

Claim 64.   (New) The method of sending a message of Claim 58, wherein the encryption key is capable of being derived from the password.

Claim 65.   (New) The method of sending a message of Claim 64, wherein the password is capable of being hashed to generate the encryption key.

Claim 66.   (New) The method of sending a message of Claim 58, wherein the password is capable of being received as part of an XML template.